

VOL. 10, NO. 3

MARCH 2003

Gator Gazette

917th WING, AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

BARKSDALE AFB, LA



Women remembered

March - Women's History Month



U.S. AIR FORCE

Gator Gazette

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 917th Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. UTA Sunday at noon is the deadline for submitting articles to Public Affairs for publication in the following month's issue of the Gator Gazette. Inputs for the Gator Gazette can also be made through e-mail to 917wg.pa@barksdale.af.mil

Office hours: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., and UTAs 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Office Phone: (318) 456-9181 Fax: (318) 456-7444.

Front Cover: Master Sgt. Candy Green, 717th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Maj. Karen Chin, 917th Medical Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Helene Switzer, 307th RED HORSE, Master Sgt. Karen Oakes, 917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Maj. Elizabeth Chamberlain, 93rd Bomb Squadron depict women in today's Air Force in celebration of Women's History Month in March. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jessica D'aurizio)

Commander's Words

"Greetings to the Military Affairs Council Eagles"

We have made arrangements for Barksdale AFB Eagles to receive a copy of our Gator Gazette beginning with this issue. Hopefully it will keep our civic leaders and community partners aware of happenings within the 917th Wing.

For those of you that may not be aware of the types of support provided by our Military Affairs Council Eagles, they have been instrumental in rewarding our Airmen and NCOs of the quarter/year, they soon will start providing our newcomers each month with refreshments, they sponsored our "welcome home" functions last year, and they fund Celebrate Barksdale - a week of activities each year to show community appreciation for our base and the fantastic people that make it go.

The Eagles work hard each year to enable Barksdale AFB to have one of the Nation's best open house and air show. The support of our Eagles is second to none, and they are an important part of Team Barksdale.

The 10th Air Force staff assistance visit is complete, and they did a superb job of pointing out areas that need some additional work prior to our UCI in May. Let's all dig in the next couple of months and get all of our programs up to the high standards that we set for ourselves. In addition to our programs, we need to bring our personal appearances

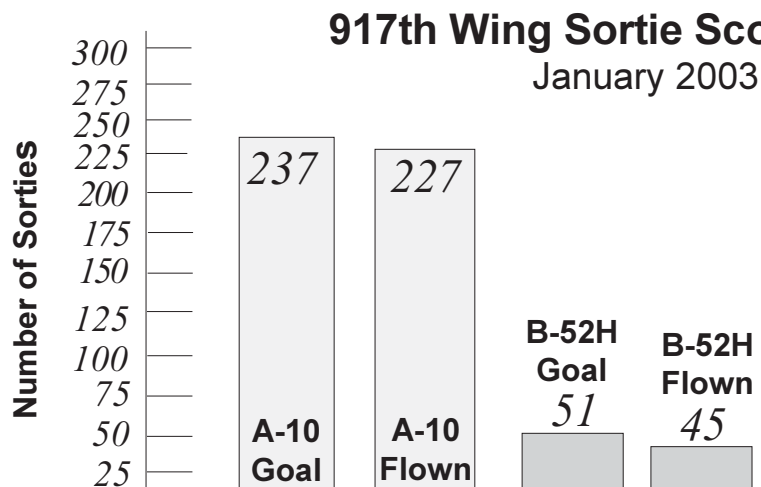


Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle
917th Wing Commander

and the appearances of our work areas into our cross checks.

Finally, my comments would not be complete without mentioning the Government Travel Card. We have made some progress over the past month, but we still have a long way to go. Split disbursement on travel vouchers will become mandatory next month, so start immediately doing a split disbursement to Bank of America for all charges that were incurred during the official travel.

917th Wing Family Day & Commander's Cup Golf Tournament June 7



A-10 Mission Capable Rate 84.3%
B-52H Mission Capable Rate 43.6%

AFRC Goal 75%
AFRC Goal 65%

EOD technicians secure parts of the Columbia space shuttle

By Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio
Wing Public Affairs

It's a good day when you return with all ten fingers, according to Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians from the 917th Wing at Barksdale when asked about their experiences with the cleanup efforts of Columbia.

Two of the 917th explosive experts assisted active duty members inspecting and assessing explosive hazards left from the Columbia shuttle crash, and four others provided help from Barksdale. They spent four days in Lufkin, Texas, working with local law enforcement as well as the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration clearing pieces of debris with potential explosive hazards.

"At times, it seemed a little chaotic, but this was not a common occurrence, and the roles were unclear at first," said Sgt. Kyle, (last name withheld for security reasons) 917 EOD Flight technician. "It was apparent that everyone was trying to come together as a team to get the job done." The EOD team identified items that were explosive and did whatever they needed to render them safe if not already safe.

"Aircraft are covered up with small explosive devices. Anything from ejection seats to bombs and missiles," said Staff Sgt. Dan Montrose, 917 EOD technician. "The shuttle had similar devices on it." During the search, a reefing line (part of the parachute assembly) was found that posed an explosive threat.

According to the 917 EOD Program Manager, Master Sgt. Jeff Smith, anything found with an explosive threat is treated differently. These items are stored in an isolated location.

Air Force Reserve EOD personnel have to attend seven months to one year of training before they can be assigned to a disposal flight. Upon arrival to their assignment, they are



COURTESY PHOTO

Tech. Sgt. Kyle, 917th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight technician, verifies there is no explosive hazards or chemical residue on a piece of the Columbia space shuttle in Sabine County Texas in February 2003.

encouraged to spend one year on a full-time basis to become more familiarized with dangerous assignments they may receive in the line of duty.

"The school is the initial exposure to this job, the year following that training is where you take it all and encompass it and use it," said Kyle. "You need this time to hone and perfect your skills."

The EOD personnel respond to a variety of incidents from pipe bombs, dropped ordnances, aircraft accidents to chemical and nuclear weapons disarming and now the Space Shuttle Columbia crash.

Staying physically, mentally and spiritually healthy...Rev. 3: 21-22

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don Eubanks
Wing Chaplains' Office

Having a "plan" of discipline is necessary for excellence in military action. In recent years, forest fires have burned gluttonously out of control. It seems plans to prevent them have not been considered.

There are fires that burn within each of our lives as well. Unbridled passions, along with a lack of discipline, create firestorms in life. Even if we try to guard our life, our firewalls are weak, since fires are so often out of control.

Two primary fuels contributed to the recent forest fires. One was drought; the other was careless acts. When there is a drought in our spirit, it is undernourished, becoming dry and brittle. A single, careless act can ignite our whole life and bring us down.

Gluttony is a word associated with out-

of-control conditions. Today, we might use the word addiction. Either word points to the same thing. Thomas Aquinas said, "gluttony is not really about food or drink, but is an inordinate desire...that is beyond the rule of order, and thus beyond any good or moral virtue." Addictions include food, drugs, work, sex, gambling, speech, praise or anything we want more and more of.

When we are alone, we may nervously go to the refrigerator and graze, believing that satisfaction will come and sooth our craving. Alone and in secret we look in the wrong places for our satisfaction.

What is it that will counterbalance our uncontrolled cravings? Classically it has been temperance. The way to combat this "living out of control" is to begin to bring life together. We need to take control of our lives for the sake of our bodies and our faith.

Our bodies are the temples of God. We may seek help from therapists or doctors' groups; either are important. But we also need to turn to our faith. When we do this, we are asking, "Who is going to guide my life?" If you let your appetites guide your life, they will enslave you. The best option is to let the Creator guide you (God).

Temperance is a help, but our Creator gave us a Spirit. Regular disciplinary bathing of oneself in that Spirit is the best health plan. A time of observance is vital. Take yourself away from all else in order that you may be filled with **God's Spirit!**

Although we need to control our appetites, we must be open to the Spirit of God and allow a "spiritual health plan" to fill us. Life is a wonderful gift. It is a shame when it gets out of balance. It is more than that. It is a sin. Go be filled with God's Spirit.



10AF SAV Team visits Wing

See what they have to say

**By Lt. Col. Charlie Morgan
Wing Performance Planning**

Greetings fellow members of Camelot. For five days 10th Air Force conducted a staff assistance visit to help us prepare for our Unit Compliance Inspection, May 14-18. Their 110 page report had as many good things to say as it did discrepancies. Remember to point out to the AFRC/IG in May all the great things we're doing.

Here are some of the things we need to brush up on:

1) Update all Wing Operating Instructions! OIs should have a 2003 date. Update references and signature blocks. OIs that show AFRES rather than AFRC are obviously out-of-date. Let's brush off EVERY OI and make sure it's current as of this year. And if the OI is now unnecessary, rescind it.

2) Everyone needs to check and

update their AF Form 55, Safety, Fire, and Health On-The-Job Training Program. Some AF Form 55's were out of date, and others lacked signatures. Supervisors and all Wing personnel need to take an active role in this program.

3) Our Foreign Object Damage (FOD) program requires special attention. A review of past Quality Assurance inspections reveals the potential for a repeat UCI discrepancy regarding vehicle operators not inspecting tires and vehicles prior to entering the aircraft parking area.

4) Document, document, document. Just because you're good looking like Harry Stewart doesn't mean the IG will "take your word" for it. Documentation should be maintained and kept current. Unit bulletin boards need to be updated! Replace all old/outdated material.

5) Operational Security!!! From computers to physical security to general security awareness, we need to increase our vigilance. A cell phone went off during a classified briefing – absolutely unacceptable! If you see someone on the flight line you don't recognize, stop them and ask for their ID card and line badge. Don't walk away from your computer without locking it first (Ctrl-Alt-Del, then hit Enter). If you have classified material out, and someone you don't know, or doesn't have the proper clearance walks in, you need to immediately secure the classified.

6) All discrepancies that need time to fix should be entered in the Self-Inspection Tracking System. SITS is the first topic in the January 03 AFRC/IG newsletter. We developed SITS – let's show the command we're the best at using it. When the AFRC/IG hits the ground on May 14, they shouldn't be able to find any discrepancies that haven't been documented in SITS.

Again, we're doing a lot of things well – from the "Outstanding" the 47th Fighter Squadron and 93rd Bomb Squadron Intelligence shops received to the "Best Seen to Date" of the Propulsion Flight's TF-34 Blade Blending Program. We've become a little complacent in other areas such as AF Form 55's, FOD checks, and Operational Security. Let's buck up in those areas!

Remember, when Patton makes his farewell visit at Gatorfest this fall, you want him to be able to say it was the finest UCI he's seen. Because if you ain't Ammo...

Tips on jazzing up before the Unit Compliance Inspection

- Check out your uniform for correct patches and placement of patches
- Shine your boots/shoes
- Clean-up your work area of paperwork that needs filing
- Touch-up paint that is peeling or needs attention
- Make sure workcenter signs are still current for your organization
- Replace dead or dying greenery
- Check your bulletin boards for required postings
- Make sure your people know the inspector general, military equal opportunity representative, etc
- Impress with exceptional personal appearance (haircuts, pressed uniform, etc)
- Know emergency exit routes and have them posted
- Show proper military courtesies
- Think safety...know the closest fire extinguisher and eyewash station
- Pick up foreign object debris on and off the flightline
- Enter secure areas on official business only
- Smoke in designated areas only
- Make mentoring a daily routine
- Show proper military courtesies
- Always buckle up
- Build training into your unit training assembly schedule
- Challenge anyone that you do not know on the flightline
- Train yourself to lock your computer before you walk away
- And last but not least always smile and display good customer service skills no matter who you are talking to or where you may be

It is the duty of everyone involved. The trainee, trainer, certifier and supervisor all bear equal responsibility to...

Document training

**-Master Sgt. Pat Roberson
Wing Education and Training**

**By Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs**

Troops gather around and listen intently to what the supervisor has to say. A new piece of equipment is introduced, its functions are explained, and the floor is then opened for questions. Answers are given accordingly, the group dissipates, and the day goes on.

"One critical step in the process was left out...documenting the training," said Master Sgt. Pat Roberson, 917th Wing Education and Training Office training assistant. "This provides the only proof that training has occurred, which is instrumental in the trainee progressing up to the next skill level."

"The trainer and trainee equally bear the responsibility to make sure training is received and documented," Roberson said. "The certifier, usually a third-party who is qualified in the tasks listed, performs an additional evaluation on the trainee and certifies he (trainee) is qualified in designated, critical tasks."

A supervisor has certain responsibilities in documenting training records, including:

- ▶ Developing a master training plan for the workcenter
 - ♦ Note: A workcenter with only one person assigned or one fully-qualified senior noncommissioned officer (at a skill level commensurate with rank) only requires a master task listing.
- ▶ Maintaining an Air Force 623 for all members assigned to the workcenter.
- ▶ Transcribing old Air Force Job Qualification Standard to current Career Field Education and Training Plan
 - ♦ Use new CFETP to identify and certify current training requirements and to retain qualifications from previous version.
 - ♦ For personnel in retraining status, maintain CFETP from previous Air Force Specialty Code until commensurate skill level is achieved. Then, give the obsolete CFETP to trainee.

Likewise, a trainee bears a certain degree of responsibility to ensure his training is sufficient. Those responsibilities include:

- ▶ Actively participating in all opportunities given for upgrade and qualification training
- ▶ Comprehending applicable CFETP requirements
- ▶ Obtaining and maintaining knowledge, qualifications and appropriate skill level within assigned specialty
- ▶ Budgeting on and off-duty time to complete assigned training tasks, particularly Career Development Courses and self-study training requirements, within established time limits.
- ▶ Knowing who his Unit Training Manager is and the role he plays. The UTM is responsible for:
 - ♦ Initiating an AF Form 623
 - ♦ Interviewing newly-assigned personnel within 60 days to determine his training status and CDC progression
 - ♦ Conducting a comprehensive trainee orientation for trainees initially entering upgrade training within 90 days of assignment
 - ♦ Requesting formal schools
 - ♦ Scheduling course exam testing
 - ♦ Requesting CDCs and providing scores

"The trainee's focal point in the Air Force Training Program is to make sure he is making every effort to perform required tasks in his Air Force specialty," said Roberson. "Safety is the number one priority. Don't be caught doing a task without first receiving the proper training...and make sure to document it."

ORM: Six steps to enhance mission effectiveness

**By Maj. Frank Stepongzi
Wing Safety Office**

Operational risk management is a continuous process designed to detect, assess, and control risks while enhancing performance and maximizing combat capabilities. The Air Force uses the six-step ORM process to enhance mission effectiveness. These steps must be followed in sequential order.

- 1. Identify the hazards.** A hazard can be any real or potential condition that may cause mission degradation, injury, illness, death to personnel, or damage to or loss of equipment or property.
- 2. Assess the risks.** This process defines the probability and severity of a mishap that can result based upon exposure of personnel or assets to a hazard.

- 3. Analyze risk control measures.** Investigate specific strategies and tools that reduce, mitigate or eliminate risks.
- 4. Make control decisions.** Decision makers at appropriate levels choose the best control or combination of controls after analyzing overall costs and benefits.
- 5. Implement risk controls.** An implementation strategy needs to be developed and applied by management and the work force. This requires commitment of time and resources.
- 6. Supervise and review.** ORM is a process that continues throughout the life cycle of a system, mission or activity. Leaders must fulfill their respective roles and assure controls are sustained over time. The process must be periodically reevaluated to ensure their effectiveness.



A salute to women

Wing celebrates women's role in the military

By Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs

They were known as WAFs...women in the Air Force. Until 1967, they could comprise no more than two percent of the entire military population. What began as a career full of seemingly endless rules and restrictions, has evolved into a path for many Air Force

women who are now free to pursue the career of their choice with little to no boundaries.

The 917th Wing celebrates Women's History Month by highlighting the careers of a few of its own courageous women.

Chief Master Sgt. Marion Aaberg
Wing Personnel chief

Aaberg's career began when the country was at complete unrest—during the Vietnam War.

At that time, women were only allowed to choose from three career fields—clerical, medical and supply.

“My basic military training flight was the last one with these restrictions,” said Aaberg. “They were beginning to open other jobs to women with the exception of aviation, explosive ordnance and some combat-type career fields.”

After 30 years in the Air Force, Aaberg is qualified in a total of nine Air Force Specialty Codes, holding a nine-level in four of these: personnel, information management, logistics plans and supply management.

“Through the years, women have pioneered many career fields...proving the work can be done by women. It took much effort by those who have passed through the services before us to lobby congress for many of their entitlements and recognition.”



Aaberg

Tech. Sgt. Mary Jordan
93rd Bomb Squadron operations flight clerk

Jordan faced the challenge of being a woman in the military and a single mother head-on when she was deployed to a forward operating location last year in support of the war on terrorism.

“My mother made sure my son got to and from daycare every day,” Jordan said, “in addition to tending to his everyday needs like food, haircuts, baths and doctors’ appointments. She has not had these duties in quite a few years. Her youngest is 34 years old.”

“My advice for other young women in the military is to be serious about what you do,” she said. “Always be prepared for the unexpected challenges that may come your way.”



Jordan

Maj. Elizabeth Chamberlain
93rd Bomb Squadron Intelligence Flight commander

Chamberlain faced a similar challenge when both she and her husband, an active-duty flyer with the Det. 2, 57th Wing, were called upon to support the war on terrorism last year.

“It was a difficult period,” Chamberlain said. “But we are committed to supporting our organizations and the mission. We just reminded ourselves that ‘freedom isn’t free,’ and a few months apart is a pretty small sacrifice in the big scheme of things.”

Having served in the Air Force since 1993, Chamberlain says most people have dealt with her based upon her skills and



Chamberlain

abilities rather than her being a woman. “I think as time goes by, this will be the case for more and more women and other minorities in the military,” she said.

Maj. Karen Chin
917th Medical Squadron operating room nurse

As a registered nurse for the last 27 years, Chin finds her civilian job experience to be invaluable to her job in the military.

“Dealing with people is the biggest challenge of all,” Chin said. “I feel that my administrative and people skills have constantly crossed over between the two cultures.”

The key to being a successful woman in the military, Chin says, is to be self-sufficient and manage time wisely.



Chin

Lt. Col. Marilyn Alston
917th Mission Support Squadron commander

Alston, a compliance assistance specialist (consultant/trainer) for the Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration, says her civilian and military jobs are alike in that both require continuous training and education.

“Both jobs require a bit of interaction with many other departments...to be successful,” said Alston. “They are different in that the military actually has more opportunities for women.”

“The Air Force Reserve has offered me many of the same opportunities that are available to men—the opportunity to serve the greatest country in the world and have fun doing so.”



Alston



-Women in U.S. Army Corps

New short-term enlistments coming

A military short-term enlistment program, aimed at expanding opportunities for Americans to serve the country, will begin Oct. 1. Congress authorized the National Call to Service enlistment option as part of the fiscal year '03 National Defense Authorization Act. This option will be limited to high-quality recruits who have a high school diploma and scores in the top half of aptitude tests.

The program will work like this: A recruit enlists for the option and incurs a 15-month active-duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training, for a total active-duty commitment of about 19 months. Following successful completion of active duty, servicemembers may re-enlist for further active duty or transfer to the Selected Reserve for a 24-month obligation. Once this is completed, servicemembers may stay in the Reserve or transfer to the Individual Ready Reserve for the remainder of an eight-year commitment.

There are four incentives under the option. The first is a \$5,000 bonus payable upon completion of active-duty service. The second is a loan-repayment option, also paid at the end of the active-duty option. The legislation allows for repayment of up to \$18,000 of qualifying student loans. The other incentive offers 36 monthly payments at one-half of the current MGIB stipend (Stipend is currently about \$900 per month.).

The services will set the enlistment criteria. Military specialties that involve long-term training will not be offered. Basic medical specialties, some engineer skills, and personnel, administration and combat specialties will be part of the mix. Those first to opt for this program will go into the Delayed-Entry Program beginning Oct. 1.

GI Bill extension affects some, not all

The extension of the Montgomery GI Bill from 10 to 14 years affects reservists who became eligible for benefits on or after Oct. 1, 1992. Those whose benefits were terminated on or after Oct. 1, 2002, because of their 10-year delimiting date, should contact their school's Veterans Affairs Office to ensure the office has their current enrollment data. Delimiting dates will be adjusted, and benefits will resume based on that data.

No action is required on the part of reservists who currently receive MGIB benefits, or whose 10-year delimiting date has not passed, as their delimiting date will automatically be extended to the proper 14-year date. For more information, contact Verendia Sanders, 917th Wing Education and Training, at 456-9247.

Teens eligible to attend aviation camp

All Barksdale teenagers are eligible to attend the Teen Aviation Camp held at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., on May 31 - June 6. Applications may be picked up at the Youth Center, located at 425 Kenney Avenue, and must be turned back in to the Youth Center by Feb. 14. Interviews will be conducted beginning Feb. 19. The selection process is competitive, and packages must be timely, complete and neat. Applicants do not have to be planning to attend the academy to apply. Contact Cherrie Tiggegan, 2nd Services Squadron, at 456-4681 for more information.

Competitors needed for pentathlon

Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command is currently recruiting reserve officer candidates for the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers Military Pentathlon. The event, which will be held

in the Netherlands on July 22-24, is open to officers who are traditional reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, Air Reserve technicians and members of the Active Guard and Reserve.

Officers receive significant professional development, in addition to training for the Pentathlon. A selection board will review applications of candidates who meet the physical standards. The board will then determine who will attend the U.S. Armed Forces Professional Development and Peak Performance Process Training Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Training at the center consists of an academic as well as a physical regimen to determine who will represent the United States. More information is available on the Pentathlon Web site: <http://www.militarypentathlon.com>, or by calling Harvey Rosenmeier, HQ AFRC, at 1-800-223-1784, ext. 7-0275.

Gator Camp 2003 taking applications

The 917th Wing is sponsoring a youth summer camp for children ages 10-13, scheduled for June 7-13.

To register your child contact your First Sgt. for an application form during the March UTA. Applications will be viewed as first come, first registered. The camp is limited to 30 participants of 917 WG immediate family members only, at no cost.

Fax registration forms to 456-5448. To volunteer as a camp counselor or for more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. James Johnson by email.

Some airlines waive ticket exchange fees

Some U.S. airlines are adjusting their rules so servicemembers do not have to pay penalties when altering ticket reservations because of military duty. AirTran Airways, Delta Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines now waive ticket change fees for servicemembers on military deployment orders, while ticketing changes on Southwest Airlines are currently free. Continental, Frontier and Northwest Airlines will waive change fees and issue refunds on request.

A number of other airlines will waive ticket-change penalties if servicemembers present copies of their military orders or a letter from their commanders. Travelers should call their airline for waiver information before going to the airport. The Air Force Aid Society may provide loans to cover unexpected expenses resulting from air carriers not waiving fees or penalties.

Are you eligible for a VFW membership?

The focus for Veterans of Foreign Wars is Americans in uniform. One of their primary aims is to address the concerns and needs of those now serving around the globe.

If you have just returned from duty in Korea, Saudi, Kosovo, or Bosnia, received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, or received imminent danger or hostile fire pay you are eligible to be a member of the VFW. These are only a few of the qualifications to join.

To find out more go to their website at www.vfw.org or call the Post 5951, located outside the Bossier North gate, at 746-7611 or walk in to pick up an application form.

Family Day volunteers needed

Anyone interested in helping make Family Day a success may contact Master Sgt. Rosita Babb at 456-9171 or the Public Affairs office at 456-5109.

Denson Foundation makes donation

By Tech. Sgt. Terrell Eikner
917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron UPAR

The Denson Foundation started its 2003 community service commitments in January by donating clothes, toys and consumable items to the Providence House, located in Shreveport, La.

"The Providence House has an incredible record of helping broken families get back on their feet," said Master Sgt. Lenka Isaac, chief of 917th Wing Customer Service and Denson Foundation member.

"Based on its record alone, we thought it would be a good place to start with our donations," she said.

Families who stay at the Providence House are entered into a program where they learn accountability and responsibility and attend classes on life skills, budgeting and behavior modification.

"We are so grateful for the things the Denson Foundation provided us," said Kaye Celeste Kilpatrick, director of volunteer resources at the Providence House.

"There are so many wonderful organizations at Barksdale that have helped with donations, like the Airman's Leadership School and the Women's History Committee," she said. "Other groups like the Retired Officers' Association and the Women's Auxiliary have also performed many community service projects for us. We have so many people and things to be thankful for."

The Denson Foundation will continue to assist Providence



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. TERRELL EIKNER

Master Sgt. Candy Green, 917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron information management clerk, hands donated items to Sandra Harrison, a Providence House daycare worker.

House on a quarterly basis and will be looking into other options this year to expand their community service commitments.

917th Wing Salutes

NEWCOMERS

917 MDS

Capt. Fernando Torres
Maj. Donald VanSandt
Senior Airman Jamie Yevak

917 AMXS

Senior Airman Kimberly Lewis

917 MSS

Airman 1st Class Kemiko Vallien
Capt. Erica Williams

RETIREMENTS

917 MDS

Lt. Col. Charley Bourgeois

917 CES

Master Sgt. Darlene Stone

307 RHS

Chief Master Sgt. Ernest Dickerson

You are invited...

The **917th Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight** will hold a ribbon cutting at their new facility, located on the East Reservation on Sunday, March 2 from 9-10 a.m. Call 456-3728 for directions.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SHANNON COLLINS

RED HORSE member retires

Chief Master Sgt. Ernest Dickerson, Det. 1, 307th RED HORSE Squadron chief of structural utilities, greets friends and fellow squadron members after his retirement ceremony during the February unit training assembly.

Smallpox kills

By Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs

To protect troops, the Air Force Chief of Staff John Jumper has directed implementation of the smallpox vaccination program. Getting vaccinated *before* exposure will protect about 95 percent of people from the disease.

Smallpox kills about three out of 10 people infected in the United States. It is spread from person to person through prolonged close contact. The virus can cause a severe rash covering the whole body that can leave permanent scars, high fever, severe headache or backache.

According to Jumper, "Education of commanders, individuals and families is imperative to ensure the success of this program."

"At the med group, our most important consideration in regard to the administering of this vaccine is the safety of our troops," said Capt. Deana Visciotti, 917th Medical Squadron clinical nurse. All wing members identified as vaccine candidates will be educated about the disease and the vaccine.

Vaccination within three days of exposure will prevent or significantly lessen the severity of smallpox symptoms in the vast majority of people. Vaccination four to seven days after exposure likely offers some protection from disease or may modify the severity of disease.

Most people have normal, usually mild, reactions, such as itching, sore arm, fever, head and body aches, a mild rash or fatigue. These symptoms may peak eight to 12 days after vaccination.

In the past, only around 10 percent of those vaccinated experienced reactions that were serious, but not life-threatening. People whose immune systems are not working fully, those diagnosed with eczema or atopic dermatitis, pregnant or breast-feeding women, are not recommended to take the vaccine.

"Members of the 917 MDS team were the first in the Wing to be vaccinated against smallpox," said Visciotti. "It was necessary to vaccinate this group first, so they will not be at risk of contracting the disease when vaccinating others." For more information on Smallpox, go to <http://www.smallpox.army.mil/>

Quick Facts on Smallpox

- ~ The World Health Organization used smallpox vaccine to eradicate natural smallpox.
- ~ Current supplies of smallpox vaccine are limited because production ceased in the early 1980s.
- ~ Animals and insects do not carry or transmit smallpox disease
- ~ Supplies are now being produced using modern production methods.
- ~ The federal government has ordered enough smallpox vaccine to protect each American in a potential bioterrorist attack.
- ~ We lost the Battle of Quebec in 1776 because our troops weren't protected against smallpox. Americans suffered 5,500 smallpox casualties among 10,000 colonial troops.
- ~ From 1777 to today, vaccines protected American troops from dangerous infections.
- ~ Vaccines are among the most important accomplishments in medicine.
- ~ Vaccines have saved more lives throughout the world than any other medical invention.
- ~ Vaccines have saved more lives than antibiotics or surgery.
- ~ Only clean water has saved more lives than vaccines.

Voices: Did you receive the smallpox vaccine when you were young? If so, did you have any type of reaction? If not, are you leary of receiving the vaccine now and why?



Tech. Sgt. Tony Faulcon
917th Logistics Readiness Squadron

"I am not leary at all. If it becomes necessary to receive the vaccine, I'll be glad to take it."



Staff Sgt. Brian Tyler
917th Security Forces Squadron

"I feel comfortable with receiving the vaccine if I am put in an area where there is a possibility of being exposed to smallpox."



Airman 1st Class Shatara Lemons
917th Logistics Readiness Squadron

"I don't mind taking it, since it will protect me from getting infected with smallpox, especially if I go overseas."



Staff Sgt. Charles Griffith
917th Mission Support Squadron

"I received the vaccine when I was young and had no reaction. I will be glad to receive it again. Prevention is best."

917th Wing Training Schedule

March 1-2, 2003

Time	Event	Location
Saturday		
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0700	Physical exam (flyers)	Base hospital (lobby)
0730	Detailed physical exam (non-flyers)	Base hospital (lobby)
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Flight medicine
0730-1400	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0730-1430	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Routine physical exam	Base hospital, 2nd floor
0800 & 1300	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800 & 1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0930 & 1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1000	Training Managers meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123A
1000	Unit deployment managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1300	HRDC meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243
Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0730-1430	Immunizations	Base hospital
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	UCI meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0800-1000	Dental Class 3 profile reviews	Base dental clinic
0800-1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800 & 1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900	Unit Advisory Council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	NCOLDP Graduation	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1300	Flightline drivers refresher	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243
1400	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1500	Wing commander's call	A-10 hangar

1550-1615 Sign-out 1550--MXG 1600--MXS 1610--CES, MSS, WG

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna
Master Sgt. Don Copeland
Tech. Sgt. Gary Johnson
1-800-241-4071

Monroe, La.

318-323-1898

Texarkana, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Mathew Lucas, 903-223-7030
Interested in becoming a recruiter? Call 917th Wing Recruiting at 456-9751.

Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed
318-688-0331

Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land
501-987-7188

Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Clark Fitzpatrick
972-681-6384/903-534-8618

SERVICES

Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, 456-9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. Newcomers in-processing
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. All customer service functions

Sunday

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. All customer service functions

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All services

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in/out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, vehicle decals, record reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
(reservations required)

Lodging

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 229, 456-9179

Friday - Sunday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Willis (985) 517-0955

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eubanks (479) 841-4641

Chaplain (Capt.) DeVaul (713) 502-1124

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday 8-11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours:

Saturday & Sunday, noon - 2 p.m.

Military Pay

Saturday and Sunday (main UTA) 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Gov. Travel Card Service

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Monday - Friday, Main UTA 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Military clothing issue

Bldg. 6825, Room 218, 456-7177

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Saturday (Main UTA) 10 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m.

Testing schedule

CDC/PME

Wed., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B

Sun., (Main UTA) 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 4314, Rm. 309

Sun., (Alt. UTA) 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B

DANTES/CLEP

Thurs., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 152

Sun., (Main UTA) 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 4314, Rm. 309

AFOQT/AFCT

Sunday of UTA on a quarterly basis as scheduled
Call Wing Education and Training at 456-7496/
8066/7506 for times or scheduling requirements.

Gas Mask Issue

Saturday (main UTA) 7-9 a.m., Bldg. 6822

Wing shows its appreciation, says “goodbye”

The 917th Wing says “goodbye” and “thank you” to one of its own—Master Sgt. Larry Johns, 917th Maintenance Group quality assurance inspector, for his involvement with the Wing Tour Program.

Johns retired in January after serving 30 years at the 917 WG, in the Air Force Reserve. After working as a crew chief on A-10 Aircraft 79-0136, he went to work in Quality Assurance. For the last seven years, he has assisted with the Wing Tour Program.

“He was always there for the tour groups,” said Betty Stephens, Wing Public Affairs assistant in charge of tours. “He made sure the surroundings were safe for our visitors in both the A-10 and B-52 areas, and he sometimes gave briefings on the A-10.”

Johns said some of his most fond memories were helping with STARBASE Louisiana tours. “I received letters and cards from the STARBASE fifth-grade classes thanking me,” he said.

“He adopted the STARBASE Louisiana Program with the first A-10 tour in June 1999,” said Sheila Schencke, executive director of STARBASE Louisiana.

“Noting that the pilot could only speak with four fifth-grade students at one time while they looked in the cockpit, Master Sgt. Johns took it upon himself to talk with the students about the plane, its mission and maintenance.”

“He added so much to the original intent of the program, helping the students to better understand the teamwork it takes to make the A-10 fly,” she said. “With his thoughtful and entertaining commentaries, the students were enthralled with



PHOTO BY BETTY STEPHENS

Master Sgt. Larry Johns, 917th Wing quality assurance inspector, speaks with students from STARBASE Louisiana about the A-10 aircraft. Johns conducted his last tour with the students on Jan. 28, the day of his retirement.

the whole experience, getting a real-world view of the Air Force Reserve’s teamwork and dedication.”

Johns greeted over 100 classes of students and teachers who came to STARBASE, and countless other tours sponsored by the Wing Public Affairs Office over the years.

“A key STARBASE logo is ‘I’m making a difference,’” said Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle. “Larry Johns has truly made a difference to hundreds of children as well as to the Wing. Thanks for everything Larry, and best of luck.”

UTA Schedule

Main

March 1-2
April 5-6
May 17-18
June 7-8
July 12-13
Aug. 2-3
Sept. 6-7
Oct. 4-5
Nov. 1-2
Dec. 6-7

Alternate

March 15-16
April 12-13
May 3-4
June 21-22
July 19-20
Aug. 16-17
Sept. 13-14
Oct. 18-19
Nov. 15-16
No alternate

917th Wing
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